

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 27 JULY 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1172-0-01 (ACCNO 5771) Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: SANDS, RICHARD EUGENE Date Status assigned: 9 Jul 1968

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	\$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	# #
Grade	E3	Hair	BLOND	Complexion	#
SSAN		Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	#
Serial	0271	Height	71 in / 1.80 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	9 Nov 1947	Weight	193 lb / 87.4 kg	Duty pos	PASSENGER
Home State	ILLINOIS	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE
UTM: 48PZC007083
Lat/Long: 152607N / 1074808E
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Military Region: 1
Mission Province: QUANG NAM-DA NANG
(formerly):
Mission District: PHUOC SON
Mission Date: 12 May 1968
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Apr 93
Investigations: Apr 93
Surveys: Apr 93
Site Identified: Apr 93
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: CRASH SITE
Survivability: (5) In the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: CH47	Serial: 18475
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: T55
Call Sign: @	1 Serial:
Year: 67	2 Serial:

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 1172

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

12 December 1975

ON 12 MAY 1968 PFC RICHARD E. SANDS WAS A MEMBER OF COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 46TH INFANTRY, 198TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE BEING EXTRACTED FROM THE BELEAGUERED SPECIAL FORCES CAMP AT KHAM DUC, SOUTH VIETNAM BY A CH47 HELICOPTER, (#67-18475). THE HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN FIRE AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1500-1600 FEET SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF. PFC SANDS, WHO WAS SITTING IN THE VICINITY OF THE DOOR GUNNERS, WAS HIT IN THE HEAD BY ONE OF THE INCOMING ROUNDS. THE HELICOPTER MADE A CONTROLLED LANDING AND CAUGHT ON FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES (GC) ZC 007 083.

DURING THE EVACUATION FROM THE BURNING HELICOPTER, FOUR PERSONNEL AND A MEDIC CHECKED PFC SANDS AND INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED INSTANTLY. BECAUSE OF THE IMPENDING DANGER OF INCOMING MORTAR ROUNDS AND THE HELICOPTER FIRE, PERSONNEL ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE PFC SANDS FROM THE HELICOPTER WERE ORDERED TO ABANDON THEIR ATTEMPT. THE REMAINING PERSONNEL WERE EVACUATED LATER FROM THE AREA BY ANOTHER HELICOPTER. (REF 1)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. PFC SANDS IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

===== REFERENCES =====

12 December 1975

REFERENCES: <1> , RPT HQ 1ST BATTALION, 46TH INFANTRY, 198TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, W/ENCLOSURES, 31 MAY 68. <2> CJTFFA DET ONE 080152Z JUN 93 & CJTFFA DET ONE BK TH, DTG 010601Z JUN 93.

===== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS =====

19 April 1993

CASE NARRATIVE FOR 1172 WAS PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE FOLLOWING THE 5-6 APR 93 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

===== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION =====

27 July 1993

ON 5 MAY 93, ONE WITNESS WAS INTERVIEWED WHO FOUND AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE IN

CASE: 1172

1983. THE WITNESS LED THE TEAM TO THE SITE WHERE THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND. THE SITE IS AT THE REPORTED LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT. WRECKAGE WAS OBSERVED AT THE SITE BUT THE TEAM FOUND NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS. (REF 2)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 19 OCTOBER 1993

----- BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION -----

REFNO: 1172-0-01 (ACCNO 5771) Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: SANDS, RICHARD EUGENE Date Status assigned: 9 Jul 1968

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	\$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	# #
Grade	E3	Hair	BLOND	Complexion	#
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	#
Serial No	56588173	Height	71 in / 1.80 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	9 Nov 1947	Weight	193 lb / 87.4 kg	Duty pos	PASSENGER
Home State	ILLINOIS	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

----- SITE INFORMATION -----

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE
UTM: 48PZC007083
Lat/Long: 152607N / 1074808E
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Military Region: 1
Mission Province: QUANG NAM-DA NANG
(formerly):
Mission District: PHUOC SON
Mission Date: 12 May 1968
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

----- JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY -----

Folders Passed: Apr 93
Investigations: Apr 93
Surveys: Apr 93
Site Identified: Apr 93
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: CRASH SITE
Survivability: (5) In the aircraft at the time of the crash

----- VEHICLE DATA -----

Vehicle Type: CH47	Serial: 18475
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: T55
Call Sign: @	1 Serial:
Year: 67	2 Serial:

----- SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY -----

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JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 20 JANUARY 1994

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1172-0-01 (ACCNO 5771) . Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: SANDS, RICHARD EUGENE Date Status assigned: 9 Jul 1968

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	\$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	# #
Grade	E3	Hair	BLOND	Complexion	#
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CASE: 1172

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

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DURING THE EVACUATION FROM THE BURNING HELICOPTER, FOUR PERSONNEL AND A MEDIC CHECKED PFC SANDS AND INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED INSTANTLY. BECAUSE OF THE IMPENDING DANGER OF INCOMING MORTAR ROUNDS AND THE HELICOPTER FIRE, PERSONNEL ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE PFC SANDS FROM THE HELICOPTER WERE ORDERED TO ABANDON THEIR ATTEMPT. THE REMAINING PERSONNEL WERE EVACUATED LATER FROM THE AREA BY ANOTHER HELICOPTER. (REF 1)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. PFC SANDS IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ===

19 January 1994

SOURCE, CURRENTLY VICE COMMANDER OF MILITARY REGION 5, PROVIDED INFORMATION ON A BATTLE WHICH OCCURRED AT THE KHAM DUC SPECIAL FORCES CAMP ON THU MOUNTAIN IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. THE INFORMATION THE SOURCE PROVIDED CORRELATES WITH REFNO 1172-0-01 BASED ON TIME FRAME, LOCATION, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS. (REF 5)

=== REFERENCES ===

12 December 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT HQ 1ST BATTALION, 46TH INFANTRY, 198TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, W/ENCLOSURES, 31 MAY 68. <2> 080152Z JUN 93 CJTFFA DET ONE. <3> CJTFFA DET ONE BK TH, DTG 010601Z JUN 93. <4> CDR JTF-FA/J2 180002Z OCT 93. <5> MSG, CJTF-FA, 130102Z DEC 93 (REPORT), MSG, CJTF-FA, 140802Z JAN 94 (EVAL).

CASE: 1172

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

19 April 1993

CASE NARRATIVE FOR 1172 WAS PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE FOLLOWING THE 5-6 APR 93 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

22 June 1993

ON 5 MAY 93, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM TEAM INVESTIGATED CASE 1172. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED ONE WITNESS WHO FOUND AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE IN 1983. THE WITNESS LED THE TEAM TO THE SITE, WHERE THE TEAM COLLECTED A SMALL QUANTITY OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. THE SITE IS IN THE AREA OF THE REPORTED LOCATION OF THE 1172 INCIDENT. NO ONE COULD BE FOUND WHO HAD KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS FOUND AT THE SITE. THE TEAM RECEIVED NO REMAINS DURING THE INVESTIGATION. (REF 2)

27 July 1993

ON 5 MAY 93, ONE WITNESS WAS INTERVIEWED WHO FOUND AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE IN 1983. THE WITNESS LED THE TEAM TO THE SITE WHERE THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND. THE SITE IS AT THE REPORTED LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT. WRECKAGE WAS OBSERVED AT THE SITE BUT THE TEAM FOUND NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS. (REF 3)

19 October 1993

THE ITEMS RECOVERED AT A CRASH SITE AT GRID COORDINATES 48PZC0066508483 ARE FROM A C-130B AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT CORRELATE TO THE CH-47 INVOLVED IN THE REFNO 1172 INCIDENT. (REF 4)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 16 FEBRUARY 1994

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1172-0-01 (ACCNO 5771)
Name: SANDS, RICHARD EUGENE

Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Date Status assigned: 9 Jul 1968

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	\$
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Mission Province: QUANG NAM-DA NANG
(formerly):
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Mission Date: 12 May 1968
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Apr 93
Investigations: Apr 93, Jan 94
Surveys: Apr 93, Jan 94
Site Identified: Apr 93
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: CRASH SITE
Survivability: (5) In the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: CH47	Serial: 18475
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: T55
Call Sign: @	1 Serial:
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CASE: 1172

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

19 April 1993

CASE NARRATIVE FOR 1172 WAS PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE FOLLOWING THE 5-6 APR 93 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

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19 October 1993

THE ITEMS RECOVERED AT A CRASH SITE AT GRID COORDINATES 48PZC0066508483 ARE FROM A C-130B AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT CORRELATE TO THE CH-47 INVOLVED IN THE REFNO 1172 INCIDENT. (REF 4)

11 February 1994

ON 22 JAN 94, IE2 CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1172 IN PHUOC SON DISTRICT, QUANG NAM-DANANG PROVINCE. THE VNOSMP WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY WITNESSES PERTAINING TO THIS CASE. IE2 CANVASSED THE LOCAL VILLAGE FOR POTENTIAL WITNESSES, HOWEVER, NONE WERE FOUND. IE2 TRAVELED TO THE LOSS LOCATION CONTAINED IN U.S. RECORDS AND CONDUCTED A SITE SURVEY WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. NO EVIDENCE OF REMAINS, PERSONAL EFFECTS, WRECKAGE, OR BURIAL SITES WERE LOCATED. (REF 6)

19 NOV 1993



JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BOX 64044

CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4044

CASE 1172-0-01

NARRATIVE

ON 12 MAY 1968, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RICHARD E. SANDS WAS ABOARD A CH-47 HELICOPTER (SERIAL NUMBER 67-18475) EXTRACTING UNIT MEMBERS FROM THE KHAM DUC CAMP WHICH WAS UNDER ATTACK BY PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM FORCES. SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF, THE HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE, CRASHED AND BURNED ON THE KHAM DUC AIRFIELD, IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES ZC007083, APPROXIMATELY 80 KILOMETERS SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF DA NANG, QUANG NAM-DA NANG PROVINCE. THE SURVIVORS OF THE CRASH REPORTED THAT PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SANDS WAS FATALLY WOUNDED IN THE HEAD BY THE ONE OF THE INCOMING ROUNDS WHICH HIT THE HELICOPTER. THEY WERE UNABLE TO RECOVER PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SANDS' BODY FROM THE WRECKAGE BECAUSE THE HELICOPTER WAS ON FIRE AND MORTAR ROUNDS WERE EXPLODING IN THE AREA.

ON 5 MAY 1993, A JOINT TEAM VISITED KHAM DUC, PHUOC SON DISTRICT, QUANG NAM-DA NANG PROVINCE TO INVESTIGATE THIS CASE. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. LE MINH HUONG WHO REPORTED THAT IN 1983 HE AND HIS BROTHER SALVAGED SCRAP METAL FROM AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE ON THE OLD KHAM DUC AIRSTRIP. MR. HUONG ESTIMATED THEY COLLECTED TWO METRIC TONS OF ALUMINUM. DURING THEIR MANY TRIPS TO THE SITE, THEY NEVER SAW ANY REMAINS AMONG THE WRECKAGE. THE TEAM VISITED THE CRASH SITE AND FOUND SMALL FRAGMENTS OF WRECKAGE. SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS OF THE WRECKAGE INDICATES THAT THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH A C-130B MODEL AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT CORRELATE TO THE CH-47 INVOLVED IN THE CASE 1172 INCIDENT.

PASSED TO OFFICIALS OF THE
VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DURING THE
6 DEC 93 TECHNICAL MEETING

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CASE 1172-0-01

PERTINENT DATA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAME: SANDS, RICHARD EUGENE
RANK: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS, U.S. ARMY
DATE OF BIRTH: 9 NOVEMBER 1947
RACE: CAUCASIAN
HEIGHT: 1.80 METERS
WEIGHT: 87.4 KILOGRAMS
HAIR: BLOND
EYES: BLUE

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JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BOX 64044

CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4044

Vụ số 1172-0-01

Tờ Trường Thuật

Vào ngày 12 tháng 5 năm 1968, Binh nhất RICHARD E. SANDS ở trên chiếc trực thăng CH-47 (số hiệu 67-18475) bốc lên những quân lính của đơn vị ở trại Khâm Đức lúc bị Bộ Đội Việt Nam tấn công. Một lúc sau khi cất cánh chiếc trực thăng bị đạn từ dưới đất, bắn trúng, rớt xuống và cháy ở sân bay Khâm Đức trong phạm vi toạ độ ZC007083, khoảng 80 cây số hướng nam-tây nam của Đà Nẵng, tỉnh Quảng Nam-Đà Nẵng. Những người sống sót nói rằng Binh nhất SANDS bị tử thương ở đầu vì một trong những viên đạn trúng vào chiếc trực thăng. Họ không thể thu hồi thi hài của Binh nhất SANDS từ xác trực thăng vì đang cháy và những quả cối nổ trong khu vực.

Vào ngày mồng 5 tháng 5 1993, một đội hỗn hợp thăm Khâm Đức, huyện Phước Sơn, tỉnh Quảng Nam-Đà Nẵng để điều tra vụ này. Đội phỏng vấn Ông Lê Minh Hương và ông ấy báo cáo là vào năm 1983 ông ấy và anh của ông ấy đi nhặt nhôm vụn từ xác máy bay ở sân bay Khâm Đức cũ. Ông Hương ước tính họ thu hai tấn nhôm. Trong những chuyến tới chỗ rơi họ không bao giờ thấy hài cốt trong xác máy bay. Đội thăm chỗ rơi và tìm thấy mảnh vụn của máy bay. Sự phân tích của các mảnh này sau đó cho biết là chúng thuộc máy bay loại C-130B và không liên quan đến chiếc CH-47 của vụ số 1172.

Sau đây là những chi tiết liên quan:

Họ và tên: SANDS, RICHARD EUGENE

Cấp bậc: Binh nhất, Lục quân Mỹ

- 2 -

Vụ số 1172-0-01

Ngày sinh: 9 tháng 11 năm 1947

Chủng tộc: Da trắng

Chiều cao: 1 thước 80

Cân nặng: 87 kí 4

Màu tóc: Vàng

Màu mắt: Xanh dương